

MISSIONS WEEKEND 2018

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We look forward to seeing everyone at Central’s annual Missions Weekend, which takes place September 28-30. The weekend is filled with events for visiting missionaries, and on Sunday morning, we will be blessed to have visits from many of our missionary friends to our Sunday school classes. The weekend festivities culminate with Sunday’s missions lunch. The event is free, and all are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:15 service. During lunch, all missionaries in attendance will be introduced, and there will be plenty of giveaways for the kids.

This year’s focus is on local missions. Two local groups that are supported by Central Presbyterian Church are holding their annual fund-raising banquets the same weekend. On Friday evening, September 28, Mission Gate Prison Ministry has their annual banquet in the ballroom at the DoubleTree Westport where Randy and his band will perform. Then on Saturday evening, ThriVe St. Louis celebrates with their annual banquet at the St. Charles Convention Center. Special music at this event will be provided by Randy Mayfield and Susan Crecelius. A number of Central members will be in attendance at both of these events. If you are interested in attending either event, please contact Mission Gate (636-391-8560) and/or ThriVe (314-783-0478) for ticket information.

We are also very excited to welcome Mike Jones, senior pastor of Friendly Temple. Pastor Jones will be preaching at both

services on Sunday morning. Friendly Temple is a dynamic North St. Louis church that is actively involved in living out the Gospel to their neighbors while helping them realize their value in the One who made them. Their ministries include outreach to youth, elderly, family, and the disenfranchised of all types. Mike accompanied a team from Central on a missions trip to Cuba in January of this year.

Also joining us is Marty Nystrom, who will lead worship at our Sunday services. Marty composed the well-known worship song “As The Deer,” along with many others. Marty will also be the featured speaker at the missions luncheon. Randy and Marty met more than 30 years ago when they performed with the Oral Roberts University World Action Singers. He was also a member of the creative team at Integrity Music that produced the *Hosanna!* live-worship albums. During our weekend, Marty’s worship and presentation will draw from Isaiah 61:11: “For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.”

Please make plans to be with us as we celebrate the diverse work of those in the local, national and international mission field, and learn how our support helps each of them in their call to spread the gospel.



Above: Marty and Jeanne Nystrom



Above: Pastor Mike Jones in Cuba, 2018
 Left: Ted Winters, Clay Smith, Mike Jones in Cuba, 2018

MISSION TO INDIA

BY PAM SMITH

It's impossible to not be struck by the intense dichotomy of India today. It hits you as soon as you leave the airport in New Delhi. This is a country caught between the tradition and beauty of a centuries old culture and the onslaught of 21st century technology and industry.

Before flying to Manipur, India, our team — Chris and Mary Wynn, Bill Lane, Ginny Eades, Joan Langenberg, Randy Mayfield, and me — had two days in the capital city of New Dehli to adjust to the 10.5 hour time change and do a little sightseeing. One of those days was spent



Agra (a city several hours south by train), seeing the Taj Mahal.

Khen Tombing met us at the Imphal airport, and after a 90-minute drive to New Lamka, we arrived at their compound where we were met by Khen's wife, Rith, and Pastor Mang, who is the Institutions Coordinator for the Presbyterian Church in India (Reformed). The compound includes the Tombing's home, Rayburn College (New Lamka), Rayburn Presbyterian Church, and Agape Babies' Home.

Manipur feels like a different country from central India. If Delhi feels like it's undergoing a shift equivalent to the industrial

revolution, New Lamka feels like a boom town in the old west. Construction is constant, and most buildings have rebar sticking out of the top floor ready and waiting for the next story to be added. The countryside around New Lamka is dotted with villages, some still almost inaccessible by car, but telephone poles and electrical lines snake up the hills like persistent vines. Even satellite dishes cling to the tin



roofs of wood shacks in the mountains.



We stayed at the guest house above the Agape Babies' Home for six days.

With that as our home base, we

worshiped at churches in New Lamka, visited more remote churches, toured the denomination's head office, saw the campus of the Reformed Bible Institute, and visited Covenant Children's Home along with the new Rayburn College location (currently under construction).

Traveling with us were Pastor Mang, from PCI(R), and our missionaries, Pau and Kim Gualnam, who were able to give us incredible insight and context as we tried to take in everything we were seeing.

Pau and Kim Gualnam commented on the support they receive from our church. Regular prayer support really delights these missionaries. When they receive a note with a picture of the prayer team

praying for them and their work, it strengthens them. "Seeing people who have been



praying for us and supporting us face to face is such a big encouragement for us. We love to have visitors, please come again and again!"

Randy and Ginny taught seminars and encouraged the pastors and lay leaders. Randy focused on vocal techniques, singing in a choir, and leading worship, while Ginny used her counseling experience to talk about dealing with grief and teaching children who have experienced trauma. On our last night,



Randy performed at a joint concert with the PCI(R) Central

Choir and the Rayburn Presbyterian Youth Fellowship Choir. The team from Central also got to share our testimonies and stories of God's faithfulness in our lives. But our most important role was listening; listening to the intense love for God that imbues the believers here, listening to their struggles and challenges, and most of all, listening to their heartfelt desire to follow Christ and his call on their lives.



Bill was impressed by the faith and trust he saw, "this is a church that is so vibrantly growing and going out. They have a vision of a highway, planting a



church ten miles down this highway. This vision must be a lot like what the early church

was as it grew through the world. It ties our faith from the past to the present all together."

The Tombings, Gaulnams, and the Presbyterian Church in India (Reformed) have planted 47 churches in the hill country around New Lamka. They operate the babies' home, Covenant Children's Home, several Rayburn High School campuses, the college, and they've started the Reformed Bible Institute, a seminary that even while under construction is offering correspondence courses. In addition to that, they support 38 missionaries in other areas of India, Myanmar, and Cambodia.



What God has done and is continuing to do here through our missionaries is beyond what most of us would even imagine is possible. "I am so thankful

for this experience,” said Mary, “the magnitude of the work they’re doing is huge. We saw so many churches and schools full of people who are being taught the truth.”



Ginny was humbled by how our missionaries live out their faith, saying, “I’ve [realized] how pleasure oriented my life is. Pau and Khen and the other pastors here live day

and night for their ministry. They don’t seem to stop. Planting churches, affecting thousands and thousands of lives, it’s mind boggling.”

From Randy’s perspective, the Tombing’s impact is immense, “what started with a gift from

Central Church to buy land some 25 years ago has



blossomed into the growing ministry that we see today. God’s hand is all over the work in Manipur.” According to Khen, “we have planted close to 60 churches

in Manipur, as well as churches in North and South India. Altogether, we’re pretty close to planting 100 churches in the last 30 years.”

When Khen talks about Central and his gratitude for our support, he doesn’t talk as though we’re donors — we’re partners



and family. “Our relationship goes back to 1989. When 100 Central members

committed to sponsor 100 orphans, that’s where the [orphanage] began,” said Khen. “So Central’s help has been fundamental and indispensable in our ministry. Even today in every church, in every ministry, Central’s prayer is there, and Central’s gift is there.”

If you’ve ever wondered about the value of short-term



missions trips, you’re not alone. I asked Khen whether it’s really helpful to have a team come for just a week. He didn’t even hesitate, “it demonstrates the seriousness of Christianity [to non-believers — that

people come from so far], it elevates us, it makes us feel good, and stronger, and encourages us. And because of our relationship with America, people look at us as more acceptable, more honorable. It raises our status, and that’s very important in this part of the world.”

The work is by no means done here, but the harvest is indeed plentiful. Seeing the fruit of their labors and our contributions first hand has left an indelible mark on my heart. Our whole team would ask you to pray and seek God’s will for how



you can join the laborers in the field — whether it’s giving a one-time gift, sponsoring a child, volunteering at community outreach events like Taste of Clayton, going on a missions trip, working with refugees here in St. Louis, or committing to pray for our missionaries regularly. If anything, this trip has been an excellent reminder of how richly blessed we are in the West. If our brothers and sisters in India, Kenya, and Honduras are pouring their lives out for the cause of Christ, how can we do any less?

GOSPEL REFORMATION

BY TED WINTERS

I met Fidencio Herrera, a native of Mexico City, in 2017. While incarcerated at the St. Louis County Justice Center, he attended an anger management class we offer there. During our one-on-one basic Christian counseling sessions, Fidencio worked through his questions and understanding of faith in Jesus Christ. In early 2018, he became a believer, professing faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord.

After his release from the county jail, he returned to his lawn cutting and landscaping business with a desire to give God control over every part of his life. Fidencio is confident that God has prospered his business, which has grown steadily since coming to Christ. Fidencio’s company, Harvest Restoration, Inc., has recently added services to include tree trimming and roofing repair. He now hires many ex-offenders.

Fidencio was looking for a way to express his gratitude for the guidance God provided during incarceration. With a desire to give others the chance to know the truth of the Gospel, he donated \$1,000 to our prison ministry for the purchase of Recovery Bibles and Anger Management Workbooks. He has recently donated an additional \$1,000 to be used for the benefit of men and women incarcerated at the St. Louis County Justice Center.

When asked about the impact of Central’s prison ministry, Fidencio said, “I praise God for rescuing me and giving me the opportunity to give back for His Kingdom.”



Above: Ted Winters & Fidencio Herrera

MISSION TRIPS

Central has many local outreach opportunities throughout the year. We also offer several international trips each year. For information on how you can get involved, please call the missions office for more information (314-727-2777 ext. 122).

2018



October 24-November 6 | Israel
"Living Stones" mission trip to work with JEO ministries in Jerusalem and Holy Land tour with Rami Fellemon. (This trip is full.)



December 3-12 | Iraq/Kurdistan
Our continued work with our missionary to refugees and the military. Details TBA. (See Pastor Randy or contact Carol in the church office for details.)

2019



February 22-March 5 | Malta
Middle East Majority People Consultation — Conference for church planting and working in the Muslim world.



May 22-June 5 | Kenya
Band/music outreach and ministry.



Dates TBA | Iraq/Kurdistan

Don't forget to mark your calendars!

MISSIONS LUNCHEON
SUNDAY, SEPT. 30 AT 12:30PM

MISSIONS GIVING

This past quarter, because of your generous support and God's grace, Central, gave more than \$41,100 beyond our regular budget to ministries locally, nationally, and globally. Thank you Central for your love and giving!

LOCAL

Urban Young Life - \$6,000

Hope Unlimited - \$2,000

Labor of Love (Micah Project) - \$500

WORLD

Marissa (Missionary in Philippines - for medical expenses) - \$1,000

Crisis Aid (Pastor's training/conference in Ethiopia) - \$2,500

Jack Harding (PMI- ministry in Cambridge, England) - \$2,000

Kendagors in Kenya (Ministry Car repair, food, school) - \$10,000

Student Mobilization/Kathryn Fairlamb (U of Arizona) - \$2,000

Covenant / Sean Boone (EPC Church planter) - \$3,000

JEO (ministry needs for ministry in Jerusalem) - \$5,000

Pires family (security deposit/rent in Portugal.) - \$3,000

Paulo Caproni (Mission outreach to Brazilians in St. Louis) - \$2,000

One Hope (Ministry to Children around the world) - \$2,000



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